

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3977

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE QUITO 0223

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, UK, BF, EC

SUBJECT: NEW BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER

REF: NASSAU 028

1. BASED ON INFO AVAILABLE HERE, FOLLOWING RESPONSE PROVIDED TO REFTEL.

2. PETER MENNELL WAS BORN IN LONDON ON AUGUST 29, 1918, AND EDUCATED AT OUNDLE SCHOOL AND KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE. DURING WORLD WAR II HE SERVED WITH THE 67TH FIELD REGIMENT OF THE ROYAL ARTILLERY. HE WAS MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES AND AWARDED THE MBE IN 1945 FOR SERVICE IN THE FIELD. HE WAS AWARDED THE CMG IN 1970.

3. MENNELL ENTERED THE FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1946 AND FOR THREE YEARS SERVED AS VICE CONSUL IN CHARGE OF COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS IN NEW YORK. MENNELL'S SUBSEQUENT ASSIGNMENTS HAVE BEEN AS FOLLOWS: FIRST SECRETARY, FOREIGN OFFICE (1949-51 AND 1954-57); FIRST SECRETARY, MOSCOW (1951-54); HEAD OF CHANCERY, MADRID (1957-61); COSUL GENERAL, CLEVELAND (1961-64); INSPECTOR, HER MAJESTY'S DIPLOMATIC SERVICE (1964-66); COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY; KINSHASA (1966-70); AMBASSADOR, QUITO (JUNE 1970-

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SEPTEMBER 1974).

4. MENNELL MARRIED PRUDENCE HELEN VANSITTART IN 1946. THEY HAVE TWO SONS AND TWO DAUGHTERS, ALL GROWN. THEIR YOUNGEST SON, SIMON, CONTINUES TO LIVE IN QUITO. BECAUSE HIS MOTHER WAS A NATIVE AMERICAN CITIZEN, AND BECAUSE OF HIS ASSIGNMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES, MENNELL HAS RETAINED MANY FRIENDS IN THE U.S.

5. DURING HIS TOUR HERE, MENNELL WAS A POPULAR AND ENERGETIC AMBASSADOR. SINCE UK INTERESTS HERE ARE LIMITED AND THEIR EMBASSY STAFF IS SMALL (4 FSO'S IN ADDITION TO AMBASSADOR), MENNELL FOCUSED MUCH OF HIS ATTENTION ON TRADE PROMOTION MATTERS, INCLUDING MILITARY SALES. (DURING MENNELL'S TENURE HERE, ECUADOREANS PURCHASED 12 STRIKEMASTER BAC-167 AIRCRAFT PLUS MODES AMOUNT OF OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM BRITISH). IN ADDITION, THE MENNELLS' BOTH VERY GREGARIOUS, MAINTAINED AN UNUSUALLY LARGE RANGE OF PROFESSIONAL AND SOCIAL CONTACTS, ASIDE FROM BEING AN AVID TENNIS PLAYER; MRS. MENNELL WAS VERY PROMINENT AND ACTIVE IN VARIOUS CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES.

6. PHOTO OF MENNELL BEING AIR POUCHED TO EMBASSY NASSAU. HEMENWAY

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